

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 281510Z FEB 75 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7682
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2754

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LONDON ADDED AS ADDRSSEE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PO, SP

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR ON SOVIET-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 18878

1. MY COLLEAGUES IN MOSCOW HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS
OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS WITH THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO
MOSCOW AND HIS ASSISTANTS. THEIR EVALUATIONS OF THESE
CONVERSATIONS MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. AMBASSADOR GARVEY (UK) WAS TOLD EARLIER THIS WEEK BY
THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR (NEVES) THAT HE BELIEVES THE SOVIETS
WILL HAVE TO BE RESTRAINED IN THEIR ACTIONS CONCERNING
PORTUGAL BECAUSE OF THE DEMANDS OF THE DETENTE FRAMEWORK.
AMBASSADOR SAHM (FRG) WAS TOLD BY ANOTHER OFFICER OF THE
PORTUGUESE EMBASSY THAT THE LATTER BELIEVED THAT ANOTHER
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RESTRAINT ON SOVIET ACTIONS IN THIS REGARD WAS THE PROBABLE

REACTION IN SPAIN TO A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN PORTUGAL. THE PORTUGUESE EMBOFF CONTINUED THAT IN HIS ESTIMATION SPAIN IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT IN SOVIET EYES THAN IS PORTUGAL AND THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD MEASURE THEIR MEDDLING IN PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS AGAINST THE DISADVANTAGES OF A STRONG REACTION IN SPAIN.

3. NEVES PASSED TO AMBASSADOR GARVEY SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION ON SOVIET-PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WHICH WE ARE REPORTING SEPTEL. THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR ASSURED GARVEY THAT REPORTS OF PORT RIGHTS FOR THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET IN PORTUGAL WERE COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. HE DID CONFIRM THAT THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET COULD COME INTO PORTUGUESE PORTS FOR SUPPLIES. HE CONTINUED THAT THE AZORES REMAIN COMPLETELY OFF BASE FOR THE SOVIETS; "ON THE AZORES, WE DEAL ONLY WITH THE U.S."

4. AS WE HAVE STATED BEFORE (REFTEL) INTER ALIA), WE AGREE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE SEEMINGLY ELECTED TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY IN CAPITALIZING ON THE POSSIBLE GAINS BY WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, AND THIS CERTAINLY HOLDS TRUE IN PORTUGAL'S CASE AS WELL. THE SPANISH ANGLE REFERRED TO IN THESE CONVERSATIONS WOULD NOT BE CONVINCING IN ISOLATIONS, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH OTHER FACTORS, HOWEVER, IT IS YET ANOTHER REASON WHY THE SOVIETS WILL SEE THE NEED TO TREAD CAREFULLY IN MOVES IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL.
STOESSEL

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